



# The National PTA®

March 21, 1995

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**Re: CC Docket 94-1: Price Cap  
Performance Review for Local  
Exchange Carriers: EX PARTE**

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Hundt:

On behalf of the 6.9 million members of the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), we join many other education and civic organizations in strongly encouraging you and Commissioners Barrett, Chong, Ness, and Quello to support the proposal filed which would redirect the consumer productivity dividend to help connect schools and libraries to the NIT.

The National PTA supports equal educational opportunities and is concerned that not all children have sufficient opportunities toward achieving high educational standards required by the challenges of the 21st century. A very real barrier to equity is the expense of access to telecommunications technology. The proposal is an appropriate use of regulatory incentive to benefit students, especially those in disadvantaged areas, who will shape the future of our nation. It is an investment that will bring on-going and healthy dividends to our country. Although it will not solve the funding needs of all schools and libraries, it will be a giant first step.

Currently, national and state policies related to access, affordability, teacher preparation and quality of instructional software related to educational telecommunications is virtually non-existent. While price caps is not the panacea, it would signal the beginning of dealing with these difficult issues in the absence of any significant Congressional appropriations in the near future. Unfortunately, the people who end up dealing with the lack of technological resources are local PTA units and parents who are spending their time fundraising instead of pressuring school boards and local policymakers for improved education and implementation of Goals 2000.

We understand that connectivity for classrooms and libraries is a personal goal of yours and we applaud you for that. We ask that you support the price caps and thank you for this opportunity to offer our views.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Belter  
Vice-President for Legislative Activity

cc: FCC Commissioners

FILE COPY

MAR 7 - 1995



February 22, 1995

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M. St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt,

On behalf of the members of the New Jersey Library Association, I want to strongly give our support for the Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers (CC Docket 94-1) pending before the Federal Communications Commission. The approval of this plan would greatly further our national goals of having all libraries and every classroom connected to the National Information Infrastructure. The reality is that not all of our residents will have access to information technology. Our educational institutions must remain in the forefront of providing equity for all residents on the information superhighway.

The plan would provide as much as \$300 million per year to make educational resources available to schools and libraries. This type of funding is definitely needed in New Jersey. Currently, there are no technology funds available to assist libraries or schools in connecting to the information infrastructure.

Although the "consumer productivity dividend" was originally intended to provide some financial benefit to the customer, it appears that this may not have happened. With the great emphasis on education in the United States, I believe that most people would strongly support a program which assists libraries and schools with purchasing new technology. This proposal is innovative because it provides a dedicated source of funding for educational technology without relying on traditional taxing sources such as property or sales taxes. The proposal will also create a closer working relationship between local carriers and educational institutions to create an information superhighway which meets the needs of all.

The New Jersey Library Association views this proposal as a model for further regulatory action by the Federal Communications Commission. As more and more competitors seek access to the information superhighway, the federal government has an obligation to ensure that all residents will have opportunities. The price cap review is an excellent beginning in that direction.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Tumulty*  
Patricia Tumulty, Executive Director

4 West LaFayette Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608 • (609) 394-8032

FILE CUT



35 East Gay Street, Suite 305  
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MAR 13 1995

Ohio Library Association — Ohio Library Trustee Association — Ohio Friends of the Library

March 9, 1995

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St., NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Ohio Library Council supports the use of rate price cap funds to assist libraries in connecting to the emerging National Information Infrastructure (CC Docket 94-1: Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers).

The use of these funds by local telephone companies to finance investments in library and educational infrastructure, as proposed by the Education and Library Alliance, is an excellent way to speed the linkage of schools and libraries to the national information infrastructure.

Ohio Library Council represents 5,000 library employees, trustees, and Friends of the library. Ohio leads the way in library networks; in July the Ohio Public Library Network will go on-line and add to OhioLINK (colleges and universities) and InfoHIO (schools). Linkage and telecommunications costs have been the greatest barriers we have faced in the efforts to network all of Ohio's public libraries.

We urge your support of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Frances Haley  
Executive Director

bcc: Carol Henderson, ALA Washington office

2023477300 AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

OREGON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

EX PARTE

September 28, 1994

(identical  
letters sent  
all 5 FCC  
Commissioners)

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N. W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Oregon Library Association, representing about 1,000 librarians and library supporters in Oregon, strongly endorses the use of rate price cap funds to assist libraries in connecting to the emerging National Information Infrastructure (CC Docket 94-1: Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers).

We understand that proposal filed by the Education and Library Alliance would generate approximately \$300 million per year that local telephone companies could use to finance investments in library and educational infrastructure in their service territories.

Here in Oregon, we have spent the past year planning for a state-of-the-art library network that will eventually provide every Oregonian with access to vast amounts of library materials and information. One of the major findings of our planning process is that it is absolutely essential that all of Oregon's libraries gain affordable access to the "information superhighway" as soon as possible.

We believe this innovative proposal on behalf of the nation's libraries and schools will meet our needs, and be of great benefit to all American citizens. We urge your careful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Anne Billeter

Anne Billeter  
President

P. O. Box 2042 • Salem, Oregon 97308-2042

FEB 23 1995  
**PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**

1919 North Front Street Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102

(717) 233-3113 1-800-622-3308 Fax: (717) 233-3121 Job Hotline: (717) 234-4646

February 18, 1995

Chairman Reed E. Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Pennsylvania Library Association heartily endorses the proposal submitted by the American Library Association which deals with reform of the current price cap regulations of telephone companies. (CC Docket 94-1: Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers) Approval of this proposal would greatly advance a primary goal of library and education groups across the country which is to connect every library and classroom to the national information infrastructure by the end of this century.

As more and more libraries are wired and begin offering new services through the means of technology, millions of citizens will be able to access new information and emerging services through their local libraries.

Approximately \$300 million per year would be available, if the proposal is approved, to make educational resources available to students, as well as information necessary for decision-making in everyday life, and continuing education pursuits (lifelong learning) for millions of public library users.

We sincerely hope that you will take favorable action on this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Kathy Kennedy  
President

KK/jl

cc: FCC Secretary William A. Caton



October 13, 1994

Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman:

RE: **FCC Comprehensive Review of the Performance  
of LECs Under Price Cap Regulation -- CC Docket 94-1**

The Rural Electrification Administration (REA) was recently contacted by the Organizations Concerned about Rural Education (OCRE) and asked to comment on their position regarding incentives to promote the development of the National Information Infrastructure for rural educational facilities and libraries. Specifically, OCRE (through reply comments submitted in the matter of CC Docket 94-1) suggests that the FCC redirect the Consumer Productivity Dividend (CPD), that is now part of the current annual access rate price cap formula, to a program designed to benefit education and libraries. Under this proposal, the 0.5 percent CPD would not be included in the price cap calculation, but instead would be allocated to a special account against which LECs would charge investments made in the educational and library infrastructure in their telephone service territories.

The REA, in addition to providing financing for the improvement of the rural telecommunications network, annually loans millions of dollars for educational television facilities and administers a Distance Learning grant program which provides funds to colleges, universities, and other educational facilities. In general, the REA supports efforts made by organizations like OCRE to improve the nation's rural education systems' accessibility to the information superhighway. Improvement of the rural education infrastructure is critical to rural America's long term viability. We applaud this and other rural development initiatives that will enable rural communities to prosper from the benefits of a nationally integrated information system.

The REA telephone program has nearly 900 active borrowers across the U.S. The vast majority, as you are probably aware, do not operate under price cap regulation. At this juncture OCRE's proposal will have no known adverse effect on our borrowers or on the security for the Government's REA loans. In general, the REA is in favor of developing information links to libraries and schools and urges the FCC to give OCRE's proposal full and careful consideration.

Honorable Reed E. Hundt

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The FCC should be commended for its efforts in evaluating the performance of LECs under price cap regulation. As an agency dedicated towards providing rural America with affordable, advanced telecommunications facilities needed to derive the benefits of the information superhighway, the REA appreciates the FCC's initiatives to foster policy consistent with the goals of improving the universal service concept and to provide improvements to the regulatory framework of the telecommunications industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Wally Beyer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

WALLY BEYER  
Administrator  
Rural Electrification Administration

03/22/85 10:24

2024182806

OLIA FCC

002/003

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI  
MARYLAND

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

October 21, 1994

SUITE 708  
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003  
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Judy Harris  
Director, Office of Legislative Affairs  
Federal Communications Commission  
Room 808  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Harris:

I am writing on behalf of the American Library Association, which has brought to my attention their enclosed proposal to assist schools and libraries to be effective users of the information superhighway.

I agree with them that all citizens should be given "an even playing field" through universal access to these new technologies that are shaping our future. I hope that the FCC will give their proposal every fair consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Barbara A. Mikulski*  
Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator

BAM:mhr

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CITY CENTER ON THE PLAZA  
212-218 WEST MAIN STREET  
CALISBURY, MD 21601  
(410) 346-7711





MAR 14 1995

## TEXAS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

3355 Bee Cave Road • Suite 401 • Austin, Texas 78746-6763  
(512) 328-1518 • FAX (512) 328-8852

March 9, 1995

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street NW, Suite 814  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

This letter is in reference to the proposal "Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers: Ex Parte," (CC Docket 94-1).

The Texas Library Association, a 5,800 member organization comprised of librarians and library supporters, is enthusiastically in support of this proposal as submitted by the Education and Library Alliance. Intended to connect schools and libraries to the National Information Infrastructure (NII), the proposal would help libraries gain affordable access to the information superhighway. The world's information is increasingly available in digital electronic form, and it is being increasingly communicated via interconnected telecommunications systems. Libraries provide access to electronic information to millions who would otherwise have no access. Texas librarians and library supporters urge your support of this proposal that would improve educational opportunities for students and provide all citizens with equity in the information superhighway.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia H. Smith  
Executive Director

cc: William A. Caton, Secretary of the FCC



## WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

DIRECTOR - RESOURCE CENTER

NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER For the Advancement of Library Service and Librarianship

WHEELING JESUIT COLLEGE

Established 1914

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March 11, 1995

Honorable Reed E. Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The West Virginia Library Association, composed of nearly 700 librarians and library supporters in this state, strongly endorses the use of rate price cap funds to assist libraries in connecting to the emerging National Information Infrastructure (CC Docket 94-1: Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers).

In West Virginia we are especially proud to have been awarded a \$ 2.5 million grant to establish high-speed data communications among our public and school libraries and to create local information databases which will be accessible to all. In our mostly rural state, the infrastructure established by this grant will significantly impact the lessening of an information rich vs. information-poor dichotomy. However, the grant will cover the costs of communication lines for only 1 1/2 years. We need a long-term solution for communication costs.

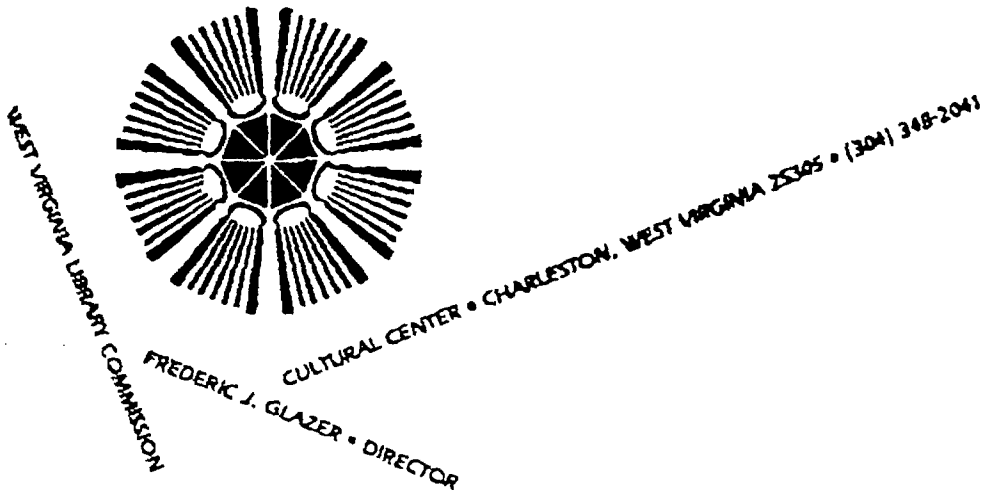
The proposal filed by this alliance of education and library organizations would generate approximately 300 million dollars per year which local telephone companies could use to finance investments in library and educational infrastructure within their service areas. We feel this infrastructure investment opportunity would help to address the need for long-term, dependable funding for the much-needed National Information Infrastructure.

We in the West Virginia Library Association believe that this innovative proposal, on behalf of the nation's libraries and schools, will meet our needs and be of great benefit to all American citizens. We urge your careful consideration and adoption of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Julian, PhD  
President

***Libraries...Fulfilling Aspirations!***



February 28, 1995

Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC Comprehensive Review of the Performance of LECs Under Price Cap Regulation -  
CC Docket 94-1

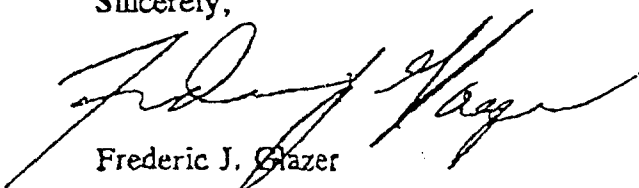
Dear Chairman Hundt,

The 176 public libraries in West Virginia, 55 public school libraries, and 28 academic libraries are preparing to complete statewide interlibrary multitype networking through implementation of a recently-awarded U.S. Department of Education \$2.5 million grant. This grant will enable the 1,793,477 citizens of the State - at whatever educational level- to access local, state, national, and INTERNET resources. Our rural, often isolated, citizens will be empowered by this project.

The proposal on "Price Cap Performance Review for Local Exchange Carriers" submitted by the Education and Library Alliance to connect schools and libraries to the National Information Infrastructure would be the perfect complement for our ambitious program, ensuring equal, affordable access for everyone.

The West Virginia Library Commission (the state library agency) strongly endorses this innovative proposal. We urge your careful consideration of providing these credits to our libraries and schools.

Sincerely,



Frederic J. Glazer

cc: William A. Caton, FCC Secretary